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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/009,568	03/11/2002	Jonathan Mark Bentley	040283-0195	4962

22428 7590 09/25/2002

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EXAMINER

SMALL, ANDREA D SOUZA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1626

DATE MAILED: 09/25/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/009,568

Applicant(s)

BENTLEY ET AL.

Examiner

Andrea D Small

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14, 18-22 and 25-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 12-14, 18-22 and 25-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 10 and 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

I. Preliminary Amendment:

Preliminary amendment filed 3/11/2002 has been received and entered as paper no. 6.

- (a) Claims 16, 17, 23, 24 and 28 have been cancelled.
- (b) Claims 1, 4-15, 18-22, 25, 27 and 29-30 have been rewritten.
- (c) Claims 1-15, 18-22, 25-27 and 29-30 are pending.

II. Rejections:

The international search report has been fully considered along with all the references provided with said report.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

/ Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The term "combining" in claim 30 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. In the claimed context, it is unclear what Applicant intends to claim by the term 'combining', the term may be interpreted as 'reacting', 'coated by', or 'combined pendant on a type of regime'. Amending the claim to replace the term with 'reacting' is suggested to obviate the above rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

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The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-9, 12-15, 18-22 and 25-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rice, et al (US 3,142,678).

Applicants claim pharmaceutical compounds useful in treating CNS, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal disorders, etc., according to formula (I) in claim 1.

Determination of the scope and content of the prior art (MPEP §2141.01)

Rice, et al teach structurally similar compounds to those instantly claimed, specifically where Applicants R4-R7 is hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, nitro, etc., R1 and R2 are hydrogen and alkyl, A is a partially unsaturated 6 membered heterocycle and R3 is a hydrogen. See generic teaching on col. 1, lines 10-50, specifically example 1, and claims 1 and 9. These compounds are taught to be useful in treating CNS disorders and disorders of the gastrointestinal, such as loss of appetite. See col. 1, lines 20-30.

Ascertainment of the difference between the prior art and the claims (MPEP §2141.02)

The difference between the prior art and the instant claims is that the prior art teaches the substitution of a hydrogen at the corresponding R3 position of the instantly claimed compounds, whereas the instant claims have an alkyl at said position.

Finding of prima facie obviousness---rational and motivation (MPEP §2142-2413)

However, it would have been prima facie obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the filing of the instant application to substitute a methyl for hydrogen at the corresponding R3 position of a known compound because one of ordinary skill in the art would expect structurally similar compounds to possess similar activity.

III. Objections:

Claims 10-11 are objected as being dependent on rejected base claims and would appear allowable if rewritten in independent form.

IV. Salutation:

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrea D. Small, whose telephone number is (703) 305-0811. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Joseph K. McKane, can be reached at (703) 308-4537. The Unofficial fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-7921. The Official fax phone numbers for this Group are (703) 308-4556 or 305-3592.

When filing a FAX in Technology Center 1600, please indicate in the Header (upper right) "Official" for papers that are to be entered into the file, and "Unofficial" for draft documents and other communications with the PTO that are not for entry into the file of the application. This will expedite processing of your papers.

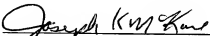
Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [Joseph.McKane@uspto.gov]. All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees will not communicate with applicant via Internet e-mail where sensitive data will be exchanged or where there exists a possibility that sensitive data could be identified unless there is of record an express waiver of the confidentiality requirements under 35 U.S.C. 122 by the applicant. See the Interim Internet Usage Policy

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published by the Patent and Trademark Office Official Gazette on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist, whose telephone number is (703) 308-1234

Andrea D. Small
September 18, 2002



Joseph K. McKane
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1626
Technology Center 1